

Message Text

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TAGS PFOR

SUBJ CSCE: DIFFICULTIES WITH FRENCH AND ITALIANS

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD SOME DIFFICULTIES IN
DEALING WITH THE FRENCH AND ITALIANS ON QUESTIONS WHICH,
WHILE SECONDARY TO THE PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF CSCE, ARE OF
SOME SIGNIFICANCE TO US. THESE DIFFICULTIES RELATE
PRIMARILY TO FRENCH PROPOSALS IN FIELDS OF CULTURE AND
SCIENCE WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF EXOMSDNG US AND
CANADA FROM CERTAIN CSCE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES IN THESE
FIELDS, AND THE FRENCH-BACKED ITALIAN PROPOSAL FOR A
SEPARATE CSCE DECLARATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. IN BOTH
CASES THE SPONSORS HAVE IGNORED CSCE AGENDA AND
GROUND RULES AND CONTINUE TO PRESS THEIR INITIATIVES,
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DESPITE OUR OBJECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH PROPOSALS ON CULTURE AND SCIENCE -- FRENCH ORIGINALLY PROPOSED LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD CLEARLY HAVE EXCLUDED NORTH AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN MOST OF THE SPECIFIC FOLLOW-UP TO CSCE IN THE CULTURAL FIELD. UNDER STRONG US/CANADIAN PRESSURE, ASSISTED BY NATO AND NEUTRAL DELEGATIONS, THE FRENCH HAVE RETREATED SOMEWHAT FROM THEIR RIGID INSISTENCE ON REFERENCES TO "EUROPEAN" ENTITIES IN THEIR PROPOSALS. NEVERTHELESS, ON THE BASIS OF HIGH-LEVEL INSTRUCTIONS, THEY HAVE INSISTED ON PROPOSING A "EUROPEAN" CULTURAL DATA BANK, A "EUROPEAN" INVENTORY OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FILMS, AND "EUROPEAN" BOOK EXHIBITIONS. WE HAVE ARGUED THAT THESE ACTIVITIES COULD TAKE PLACE "IN EUROPE," BUT THAT, GIVEN FULL NORTH AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN CSCE, THEY SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY EUROPEAN. SIMILARLY, FRENCH HAVE MADE PROPOSALS CALLING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES "IN EUROPE," RATHER THAN AMONG CSCE PARTICIPATING STATES. FRENCH ARE LARGELY ISOLATED ON THESE ISSUES, AND ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT RESPONDED VERY POSITIVELY TO OUR PRIVATELY EXPRESSED PREOCCUPATIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEIR PROPOSALS MAY BE FURTHER MODIFIED IN FULL CSCE DISCUSSION. THE FRENCH HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO EXCLUDE US AND CANADA, BUT HAVE PRIVATELY INDICATED CONCERN ABOUT SHEER VOLUME OF US OUTPUT IN CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS, AND PRESUMABLY WOULD LIKE TO REDUCE US CULTURAL IMPACT.

3. MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION--THE ITALIANS, WITH FRENCH SUPPORT, HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE CSCE ISSUE A SEPARATE DECLARATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN, IN CONTRADICTION TO THE AGENDA AND FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE. WITH BELGIEN BACKING, THEY OBTAINED THE CONCURRENCE OF THE NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS, AND CONSULTED WITH ARAB COUNTRIES REGARDING THE IDEA BEFORE WE HAD A CHANCE TO OFFER OUR OWN COMMENTS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD OPEN A PANDORA'S BOX OF PROBLEMS AND THAT WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANY VALID RATIONALE FOR SUCH A SEPARATE DECLARATION. WE ALSO KNOW THAT EVEN THE NON-PARTICIPATING MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT. WE HAVE

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SUGGESTED THE ALTERNATIVE OF INTRODUCING REFERENCES TO THE MEDITERRANEAN IN APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF THE FINAL CSCE DOCUMENTS, BUT THE FRENCH, ITALIANS, AND BELGIANS HAVE THUS FAR REFUSED TO MEET US HALF WAY AND CONTINUE TO INSIST ON A SEPARATE DECLARATION. IF THEY WOULD AGREE TO INCLUDING REFERENCES TO THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE EXISTING CSCE AGENDA ITEMS, WE ARE SURE WE COULD AGREE ON LANGUAGE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE TREATED THESE PROBLEMS INDIVIDUALLY
IN OUR REPORTING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THEIR
RESOLUTION IN KEEPING WITH THE GUIDANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED.
WE RAISE THEM TOGETHER AT THIS TIME AS EXAMPLES OF A TEN-
DENCY ON THE PART OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE NINE TO TAKE
RIGID POSITIONS ON PROBLEMS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE TO
CSCE. THIS TENDENCY HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE ROLES
OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS ROMANIA AND MALTA, BUT HAS ONLY
BECOME A REAL PROBLEM AMONG SOME OF OUR ALLIES AS
THE NINE HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR CONSULTATIONS. IT HAS
OCCASIONALLY MADE PROGRESS DIFFICULT, AND PROMISE TO
CONTINUE TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF
THE RELUCTANCE OF THE OTHER EC-NINE COUNTRIES TO OPPOSE
THE PET INITIATIVES OF THEIR COLLEAGUES, PARTICULARLY
THE FRENCH. END COMMENT.DALE
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